

# **Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee**

**Tuesday, April 5, 2016**

**Archie R. Cole Middle School Library**

**100 Cedar Avenue**

**East Greenwich, RI 02818**

**6:05 p.m. Executive Session, Mr. Plain made a motion to go into executive session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business exempt from open meetings under Rhode Island General Laws §42-46-4 and §42-46-5 (a) (2) Teacher Negotiations, Paraprofessional Contract. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion, which passed 7-0.**

**Those in attendance were Ms. Carolyn Mark, Chair; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters, Vice-Chair; Mr. David Osborne; Mr. Matt Plain; Mr. Michael Fain; Mr. Stuart Peterson, and Dr. Yan Sun. Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; Mrs. Gail Wilcox, Director of Administration; Mr. Bradley Wilson, Director of Student Services; and Attorney Matthew Oliverio were also in attendance.**

## **7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting**

### **I. Call to Order**

**Ms. Mark called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.**

### **II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

**The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.**

### **III. Recognitions**

#### **a. Math Counts**

**b. Rhode Island Middle School Scholastic League Champions-Cole Chess Team**

#### **c. Scholastic Writing Awards-EGHS**

**All were recognized and congratulated on their accomplishments.**

### **IV. Public Comments**

**There were no comments.**

### **V. Approval of Minutes**

#### **a. Regular and executive for March 15, 2016**

**On a motion by Mr. Plain, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the regular and executive minutes. Mrs. Winters abstained.**

### **VI. Superintendent's Report**

**The Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Competition winner will be announced on April 11th. Mr. Rath and the EGHS Biotechnology students will be recognized at the April 26th meeting. The district safety team is being refreshed and the district is soliciting for interested faculty/staff. There is also a need for one School Committee member. The safety team will meet on a regular basis to review procedures, protocols, policies, etc. The first meeting is scheduled for April 26th. Dr. Mercurio thanked Derek Hague (Aramark), Michelle Edwards (Aramark), Karin Wetherhill (RI Healthy Schools Coalition), Patricia Roth (Farm Fresh RI), and Onelissa Martinez (Farm Fresh RI) for their participation on the Community Forum panel on school meals. The meeting has been posted on the**

## **School Committee YouTube Channel.**

### **VII. School Committee Concerns**

**There were no concerns.**

### **VIII. Action Items**

#### **a. Parental leave-Kerianne Tarro, Special Education Teacher, EGHS**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Dr. Sun, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the parental leave.**

#### **b. Extension of parental leave-Jillian Ayala-Science Teacher, EGHS**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Osborne, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the extension of parental leave.**

#### **c. Retirements**

- 1. Linda Cram, Grade 5 Teacher, Hanaford**
- 2. Debra Scotto, Reading Specialist, Cole**
- 3. Barbara Fodor, Special Education Teacher, Cole**
- 4. Celia Schnacky, Science Teacher, EGHS**
- 5. Elaine Smith, Grade 5 Teacher, Eldredge**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 7-0 to accept the retirements (#1-5). All retirees will be recognized at the June 7th School Committee meeting.**

#### **d. Resignations**

- 1. Paul Manzi, District Truancy Officer**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Plain, the Committee voted 7-0 to accept the resignation.**

- 2. Jason Allard, Part-Time Custodian, Central**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Plain, the**

**Committee voted 7-0 to accept the resignation.**

**e. Home School Approval-Grade K**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Peterson, the Committee 7-0 voted to approve the home school request.**

**f. School Calendar 2016-2017**

**Mr. Plain made a motion to approve Dr. Mercurio's recommendation (Calendar #A). Mrs. Winters seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Members expressed concerns regarding the heat in the buildings, community feedback, holidays defined in collective bargaining agreements, projected rates of absenteeism if February break is eliminated, etc. Mr. Osborne proposed changing November 8th (non-school day due to Election Day) to a professional development day for teachers, and changing November 23rd and December 23rd (both non-school days) to instructional days. Mr. Plain amended his motion to approve calendar #A with amendments: Designate November 8th (Election Day) a professional development day, change November 23rd and December 23rd to instructional days. These amendments change the last day of school to June 19th with four days designated as make-up days (June 20-June 23). Mr. Peterson seconded the amended motion, which passed 7-0.**

**g. School Committee Resolution on Gun Free Schools**

**On a motion by Mr. Osborne, which was seconded by Dr. Sun, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the resolution.**

**IX. Advisory/Subcommittee Update**

**a. Building Committee**

**Mr. Fain gave an overview of the meeting that took place on March 18th. National Grid Phase 2, energy initiatives, and construction for all day kindergarten were discussed. The committee discussed the application for National Grid Phase 2 and whether to move forward at this time. Energy updates for the administration building, Cole, and the town hall were discussed. Construction for all day kindergarten is on schedule and will move forward at the close of the school year. The committee is working with SBS to update the capital improvement report. The Hanaford vestibule is still on the list for an upgrade. RIDE stage 2 improvements address the EGHS locker rooms.**

**b. Health and Wellness Committee and Mental Health Subcommittee**

**Ms. Mark summarized the Health and Wellness and Mental Health Subcommittee meetings that took place on March 22nd. The committee continues their work in developing an indoor recess toolkit. The group is also working on a Health/Wellness reference guide to support administrators/teachers in implementing the Health and Wellness Policy. The plan is to present the reference guide to district administrators by the end of this year. The community forum on school meals was well received. Lots of input and suggestions were made. Plans are underway for Mental Health Awareness Month (May). There may be a forum held for the public. The Mental Health Subcommittee is looking to partner with building administrators to create a teacher toolkit. Several EGHS students have been attending the Mental Health Subcommittee meetings. There may be a poster campaign and signage on the website to direct the community to**

mental health resources.

**c. Policy Committee**

Mr. Osborne discussed the two policies on tonight's agenda and noted policies that are on the docket for revision (advertising in school facilities, video taping on buses, and the facility rental policy). Mr. Osborne and Mr. Plain discussed the reasons for drafting the Public Comment Policy (meeting rules/protocol, etc.). The Committee discussed the distinction between comment/discussion and asked Mr. Osborne to insert broader language in regards to what can be stated during public comment.

**X. Policy: First Read of New Policies**

**a. #2715 Videotaping of School Committee meetings**

The policy received the first read with numerous revisions presented by Mr. Plain. The second read on April 26th will incorporate the revisions.

**b. #1700 Public Comment Policy**

The policy received the first read and is scheduled for a second read/possible adoption at the April 26th meeting.

**XI. Discussion**

**a. FY2017 budget**

The public hearing on the town (and school) budget is Monday, April 11th at 7:00 p.m. at the Swift Community Center.

**b. Field Trips/Pay to play briefing**

Attorney Oliverio provided the Committee with an advisory opinion regarding the district's practice of charging fees to students for school-sanctioned field trips. Attorney Oliverio concluded that if a

**field trip is an integral part of the curriculum (essential to the delivery of instruction), a fee may not be charged. If a trip is an enhancement/enrichment of a program (tangential benefit), a fee may be charged. The district can seek advisory from the Commissioner of Education noting specific examples of when fees may be charged.**

## **XII. Adjournment**

**On a motion by Mr. Fain, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 7-0 to adjourn at 8:57 p.m.**

**CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO  
SECRETARY**